THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • MAY 27, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

AHEAD OF GAGANYAAN LAUNCH, NAVY & ISRO RELEASE RECOVERY TRAINING PLAN

In preparation for its possible launch in 2024, the Indian Navy and ISRO released the recovery training plan for Gaganyaan at INS Garuda, Kochi

MARINE COMMANDOS PART OF RECOVERY TEAM

The document outlines the training plan for recovery of the crew module of the Gaganyaan mission. The document defines overall requirements with respect to training of various teams participating in recovery operations including divers, MARCOs (marine commandos), medical specialists, communicators, technicians and naval aviators, a senior official said | P9

TRAINING IN HARBOUR, OPEN SEA CONDITIONS

- The training is planned in incremental phases starting from unmanned recovery to manned recovery training in harbour and open sea conditions
- The Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching three-member crew to an orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission and bringing them back by landing in Indian sea waters

2

UNMANNED MISSIONS PLANNED AHEAD OF THE HUMAN SPACE-FLIGHT PROGRAMME

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

PARLIAMENT ROW

Congress, BJP spar over Sengol as power transfer symbol

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE political slugfest over the inauguration of the new Parliament building intensified on Friday after Congress claimed there was no documented evidence of Lord Mountbatten, C Rajagopalachari and Jawaharlal Nehru describing the Sengol (golden sceptre) as a symbol of the transfer of power by the British to India.

A row erupted after Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday that the Sengol, a symbol of fair governance, will be installed in the new Parliament building.

Taking to Twitter, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh termed the ruling party's claims of Sengol being a symbol of the transfer of power as 'bogus'.

Reacting sharply to Ramesh's comment, Shah said the Congress was reducing the Sengol to a mere 'walking stick'. "Why Congress hates Indian traditions and culture so much," he asked.

However, Ramesh maintained the claims are "wholly and completely manufactured in the minds of a few and dispersed into WhatsApp, and now to the drum-beaters in the media".

He alleged "the spectre is now being used by the PM and his drum-beaters for their political ends in Tamil Nadu. This is typical of this brigade that embroiders facts to suit its twisted objectives".

Meanwhile, 20 Opposition parties including Congress have decided to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying it should be done by President Droupadi Murmu.

Ramesh said the government is running away from the real question of why is President not being allowed to inaugurate the new Parliament building. P5

24 set to take oath today, Siddu cabinet full!

Deshpande, Jayachandra, Rayareddy, Hariprasad miss out

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI & NAUSHAD BIJAPUR
@ Bengaluru/Belagavi

THE Congress high command along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar late on Friday night finalised 24 additional names for the Karnataka cabinet.

All 24, including HK Patil, Krishna Byregowda, N Cheluvarayaswamy and Eshwar Khandre, will be sworn in as ministers by Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot at 11.45 am on Saturday at Raj Bhavan (see list of new ministers).

With the addition of 24, Siddaramaiah cabinet will have its full strength of 34 ministers, as he along with Shivakumar and eight others were sworn in on May 20. The portfolios will be allotted on Saturday after the swearing-in ceremony.

With the finalised list, which has been submitted to the governor's office ahead of the oath-taking ceremony, Bengaluru city alone will have five ministers.

There are several new faces among the ministers, while several senior leaders, including former ministers and MLAs RV Deshpande, TB Jayachandra, Basavaraja Rayareddy and MLC BK Hariprasad, have been left out amid disgruntlement.

A surprise exclusion is that of Laxman Savadi, who won from Athani on Congress ticket after quitting BJP. Another exclusion is that of former CM Jagadish Shettar, who lost from Hubballi-Dharwad Central after exiting BJP. P4

THE NEW MINISTERS

HK Patil	Shivanand Patil	Laxmi R Hebbalkar
Krishna Byregowda	Timmapur Ramappa Balappa	Rahim Khan
N Cheluvarayaswamy	SS Mallikarjun	D Sudhakar
K Venkatesh	Tangadagi Shivaraj Sangappa	Santhosh S Lad
Dr HC Mahadevappa	Dr Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil	NS Boseraju
Eshwar Khandre	Mankal Vaidya	Suresha BS
Kyathasandra N Rajanna		Madhu Bangarappa
Dinesh Gundu Rao		Dr MC Sudhakar
Sharanabasappa Darshanapur		B Nagendra

MID-AIR HORROR

South Korea's Asiana Airlines averted a major tragedy after a passenger opened the plane's exit door just before landing at Daegu International Airport on Friday

Police arrested the person, whose motive was not immediately known. All 194 passengers survived the flight | AP | P12

SEVEN CMs TO SKIP NITI AAYOG MEETING TODAY

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WITH the Opposition at loggerheads with the Centre over a host of issues, at least seven chief ministers will skip the NITI Aayog's eighth Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. It comes close on the heels of 20 Opposition parties announcing their boycotting the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday by the prime minister.

The no-show list of CMs comprises West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Tamil Nadu's MK Stalin, Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab's Bhagwant Mann, Telangana's K Chandrshekar Rao and Karnataka's Siddaramaiah.

The Governing Council, the apex body of NITI Aayog, includes all CMs, Lt Governors and several Union ministers.

Proposal rejected

According to sources, the Centre rejected Mamata's proposal to depute Minister of State for Finance Chandrima Bhattacharya and Chief Secretary H K Dwivedi as representatives for the meeting

Kejriwal, who is locked in a face-off with the Centre over an ordinance to control the administrative services of Delhi, wrote to Modi on Friday saying he will boycott the Niti Aayog meeting, alleging the Centre's commitment to cooperative federalism was a joke.

Mann is upset over the Centre's discrimination against Punjab. According to AAP's state chief spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang, the boycott decision was taken as "the Centre has withheld Rural Development Fund totalling ₹4,000 crore, stopped mandi tax and delayed or shifted some sanctioned projects to other states."

Though TMC chief Mamata Banerjee had initially announced her intention to attend the meeting, she later changed ther mind.

As for the Telangana CM, he is upset with the Centre disregarding the principle of cooperative federalism and meddling in the rights of states, said sources close to him.

According to sources, M K Stalin and Pinarayi Vijayan will not make it due to other engagements. Stalin is currently in Japan on an official visit. Siddaramaiah is scheduled to attend the swearing-in ceremony of new members in his expanded ministry on Saturday. However, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and his Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren will attend.

EXPRESS READ

Don't pay power bills, bus fares, says HDK

Bengaluru: JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy has asked people not to pay bills if they are using below 200 units of electricity. He urged women not to pay fares in state government buses | P4

Boy dies of suspected water contamination

Raichur: A 3-year-old boy died due to suspected water contamination at Rekalmaradi village in Raichur district. Twenty-six people have taken ill at the village since Thursday | P3

IMD stays with its prediction of normal rains

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

MOST parts of India, barring the northwestern region, will receive normal rainfall this monsoon season, the weather office reiterated on Friday.

Releasing its second long-range forecast for southwest monsoon 2023, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said there is high probability of El Nino but an India Ocean weather condition known as Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) will weaken its impact on monsoon rains in India.

IMD had predicted normal rains last month as well.

"It is El Nino and positive IOD this year. The impact of El Nino in central India was likely to be compensated by positive IOD. But that may not happen in the case of northwest India," the IMD said on Friday.

Most areas of south peninsular India, some areas of east-central India and many areas of northeast and extreme north India will have normal to above-normal rainfall.

However, many areas of north-west India, west-central India, northern parts of the peninsular India, and along the foothills of Himalayas may get below-normal rainfall.

Also, the month of June may not give adequate rains except in some regions such as south Karnataka and northern Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Ladakh.

The IMD estimates the rainfall for the season at 96% of the long period average (87%) with a 5% margin of error. So, this year's seasonal rainfall is pegged at around 83 cm.

Private weather forecasting agency Skymet had forecast below-par monsoon for the upcoming season.

Manipur protesters now target ministers

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

WITH the authorities failing to control the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki community people in Manipur, the protesters are now training their guns on lawmakers.

On Thursday night, an irate mob attempted to attack the Imphal house of Minister of State for External Affairs R K Ranjan Singh. However, security personnel dispersed the mob using force. The minister and his family members were at home during the incident.

The incident followed the attack on the house of the state's PWD minister Konthoujam Govindas in Bishnupur district by a mob on Wednesday night. They ransacked the house and damaged some vehicles.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Friday appealed to people to maintain peace and not target anyone, including the legislators. "Please come to us for anything. We are here 24X7. People can talk to me or my colleagues and share their grievances," he added.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai and BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra arrived in the state on Thursday.

"They are meeting various civil society organisations to negotiate and bring peace and normalcy," Singh said. Calling upon people to show unity and not division in these difficult times, he said the issues are complicated and they could be settled only through constitutional provisions and dialogues.

It's Chennai vs Gujarat final

Gujarat opener Shubman Gill smashes a ton to help team post 233/3 and beat Mumbai by 62 runs in Qualifier 2 at Ahmedabad

BATTING, BOWLING TITANS

Shubman Gill is the star. He is not just arriving, he is already here and has taken the cricketing world by storm. On Friday, he started in his usual manner before shifting gears. From 50 off 32, he raced to 98 from 47 with some exquisite six-hitting shots. His 129 came off 60 balls. Later, Mohit Sharma bagged 5/10 to restrict MI to 171 and ensure a place in the final against Chennai | PT7

Analebail villagers trying to save their only bridge

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Siddapur (Uttara Kannada)

TO save the only bridge that provides connectivity to at least half-a-dozen villages, the people of Analebail gram panchayat have been placing sandbags around its pillars since [illegible].

The bridge, which was constructed in 2008 at Analebail, is now in a dilapidated condition, thanks to heavy rains in the region during the monsoon. But the people of Amegaru, Nedemane, Kyathanamane, Huljaddi, Dasabnakal and nearby villages, who had launched a long struggle for the bridge to be built, want to save it.

Work on the bridge across the Aghanashini river began in 2005. Till then, the villagers were using a temporary bridge made of areca trunks to go to Sirsi and other places. Later, they built a hanging bridge using wires, but it was washed away in the floods. "We rebuilt it in 2006 and in 2007," MN Hegde from Analebail said.

When the villagers began a movement, Rs 7 lakh was provided to construct a bridge. It remained submerged for a few days in 2015 and 2016 during the monsoon. The railings and retaining walls of the bridge were damaged because of this, he said.

"But the worst came in 2020 when the bridge remained submerged for several weeks. The pillars developed big cracks in them," Hegde said.

It was then the villagers decided to save the bridge by strengthening its pillars with sandbags. They have placed more than 400 bags around the pillars.

Villagers place sandbags around a pillar of the bridge at Analebail near Siddapur in Uttara Kannada district | EXPRESS

Whenever we approached former MLA Vishveshwar Hegde Kageri and officials, they used to assure us that a proposal has been approved and work on the bridge will begin soon. But nothing has been done.

MN Hegde, A villager

CANNES MOMENT

'Kennedy' premiere at 'world's best theatre' gives Kashyap a big high

NAMRATA JOSHI @ Cannes

BIG crowds and long queues marked the world premiere of Anurag Kashyap's *Kennedy* at the Grand Theatre Lumiere, popularly known as GTL. The film played in the official Midnight Madness section of the Cannes Film Festival.

Among those flocking the GTL were Indians, including filmmakers Bobby Bedi, Vikramaditya Motwane, Sudhir Mishra, Vignesh Shivan and actor Pradeep Ranganathan.

After an earlier screening of the restored print of Aribam Syam Sharma's *Ishanou* — beautifully realised by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur's Film Heritage Foundation — in the official Cannes Classics segment and Yudhajit Basu's short film *Nehemich* in Le Cinef competition for students' films, it was the day of back-to-back premieres of two Indian feature films — Kanu Behl's *Agra* (in the parallel Directors' Fortnight segment) besides *Kennedy*. While there were walkouts and middling reviews, both films also resulted in standing ovations. Kashyap's die-hard fans (including non-Indians) could be seen taking selfies with him after the screening till the wee hours.

Sunny Leone and Anurag Kashyap ahead of Kennedy's screening at Cannes | PTI

Cannes has been Kashyap's favourite hunting ground. Fourteen of his productions, five of them as the director (*Gangs of Wasseypur* 1 & 2, *Ugly*, *Raman Raghav*, *Bombay Talkies* and *Kennedy*), have played at the festival. Though none made it to the prized International Competition, they have featured across various other official sections — Un Certain Regard, Out of Competition, Midnight Madness — and the parallel Director's Fortnight and Critics' Week.

But *Kennedy* marked a rare first for him at Cannes. It played at GTL, arguably the best theatre in the world. "For me, it's the biggest high. It's a filmmaker's pilgrimage. We did a sound-check on our film yesterday and were blown away by the experience," said an excited Kashyap to this newspaper a few hours before the premiere.

The festival laid it out for him with all the kingly protocols in place: arrival in limousines, welcome at the top of the stairs by General Delegate Thierry Frémaux, pictures on the red carpet and the official photocall the day after.

The generosity of the film's studios and producers was heart-warming, with a big contingent of the young cast and crew welcomed to experience their big moment first hand. "My support system is the filmmaking community. They make it possible for me to make films," said Kashyap of a show of gratitude.

For the rest of his stay, he plans to do what truly needs to be done at Cannes: watch the best of international cinema. "So far, I have seen 19 films. It's the best place to watch movies and I use all my privileges to get access to them," he said, explaining why he went missing from the film's own team party at the Pizza Cresci restaurant the day before the screening. He couldn't afford to miss Marco Bellocchio's *Kidnapped*.